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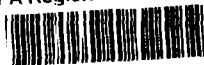


PFIZER PIGMENTS INC.

A subsidiary of Pfizer Inc.

2001 Lynch Avenue, East St. Louis, Ill. 62205

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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Field Operations Section

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IL Environmental Protection Agency

JUL 22 1986

Division of Water Pollution Control
Field Operations Section — Reg. VI

July 16, 1986

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Water Pollution Control
2009 Mall Street
Collinsville, Illinois 62234

Attention: Nick Mahlandt

Dear Mr. Mahlandt:

As per our conversation of July 14th, the following is an account of the acid and sodium hydroxide spills of July 11th and 12th.

Pfizer uses sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide to regenerate an ion exchange unit used in the boilerhouse. The acid and sodium hydroxide are each stored in 5000 gallon storage tanks located next to the boilerhouse building. A concrete dike surrounds the tanks.

At approximately 10:00 pm on Friday, July 11th, the boilerhouse operating engineer attempted to regenerate the ion exchange unit and found that there was no acid. He checked the tank and found that a nozzle leading out of the tank had leaked, letting approximately 2500 gallons of acid leak out of the tank into the diked area. The acid was leaking from the dike around a pipe leading from the tank to the discharge pumps. The acid was flowing across the ground about 10 feet to a sewer leading to the city sewer system. Lime was spread to neutralize the acid, additional lime was added to the sewers at the wastewater pretreatment plant and a millwright was called out to hook up a pump to direct the acid in the diked area to the pretreatment plant for neutralization. However, due to the fact that the leak was not detected until the tank was empty, most of the acid reached the sewer. The operator tried to contact me but I was away for the night. The operator then contacted the Pigments Production Manager, as per procedures.

On Saturday, July 12th, an acid truck arrived at the plant to provide acid for regenerating the ion exchange unit. At 8:00 pm, the acid pumps were turned on to begin the regeneration cycle. Approximately 1500 gallons of acid were spilled due to a leaking valve. The operator called me and explained the situation. He also told me of the previous night's events. I told him to neutralize the spilled

acid with lime. I then contacted the American Bottoms Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Sauget and told them that they may receive some acid in their influent from East St. Louis.

At approximately 12:30 am Sunday morning the boilerhouse operator discovered that the acid had caused the caustic tank to leak. Approximately 3600 gallons of caustic had leaked from the tank and was going out of the dike into the sewer. I was again contacted and told that essentially all of the caustic was gone. I told the operator to put absorbant material on any remaining caustic.

At 10:00 am on Monday, July 14th, I met with George Schillinger of American Bottoms and told him what had happend.

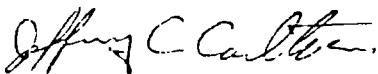
To prevent this situation from reoccurring, the following actions are being taken:

1. The existing concrete floor of the diked area will be replaced and sloped towards a four inch drain line. This line will take any liquids spilled in the dike to an existing concrete sump designed to handle the acid and caustic from the regeneration process. This will prevent a leak from going to the ground or the sewers, will eliminate the need for a millwright to hook up a pump to transfer a spill and will make a leak more noticeable for the boilerhouse workers.
2. The tanks and all piping will be raised to eliminate any corrosion from spilled chemicals.
3. The existing schedule 40 nozzles from the tanks will be replaced with schedule 160 nozzles to reduce the possibility of leaks.

Due to the time involved with repouring the concrete floor and raising the tanks, the repairs will not be finished until mid-August, barring a major delay. Until the system is back in operation, chemical trailers will be used to store the acid and sodium hydroxide.

Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey C. Carlton, P.E.
Safety/Environmental Engineer

JCC:jn

cc: American Bottoms Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility
#1 American Bottoms Road
Sauget, Illinois 62201

Attention: Mr. George Schillinger